

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Action. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to further set forth the application. No new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-6 are now pending and therefore submitted for consideration.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 2 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the previously cited reference of *Suzuki* (U.S. Patent No. 5,060,272).

Claim 1 as amended now requires designating means capable of automatically effecting a desired treatment in accordance with past operation data stored in storing means, and control means for setting parameters in order for signal processing means to process the audio signals in accordance with the desired treatment when the designating means is operated. Such designating means is discussed, for example, as a PLAY button 17 on page 22, lines 22-25 of the specification (see also page 22, line 2 through page 23, line 9).

By contrast, ***Suzuki*** merely teaches storing the last operation position information, and such teaching does not include storing a series of past operation data. Although it has been purported in the outstanding Action that it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify ***Suzuki*** by storing a series of operations or any

parameters thereof in a memory which is capable of storing any number of desired information, such "operations" are simply a plurality of scattered past operations not in the form of a series.

Moreover, in the present application as set forth in claims 1 and 2, a series of past operation data representing operations performed during a predetermined past period are stored in a memory button 16. When a PLAY button 17 is pushed and turned ON, the past operation data are read out successively, so as to perform various treatments.

On the other hand, **Suzuki** teaches nothing about performing treatments in accordance with a series of read-out past operation data. Thus, the above-described feature of the claimed invention is also not disclosed or taught by **Suzuki**.

Claims 3-6 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Silfvast et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,241, hereinafter "Silfvast").

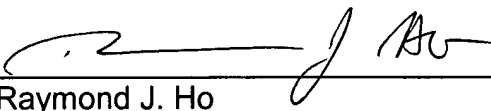
Since claims 3-6 directly or indirectly depend from claim 1, remarks that distinguish claim 1 over **Suzuki** would also justify allowance of claims 3-6 based on dependency thereof over both **Suzuki** and **Silfvast**.

In view of the above remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-6 recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants submit that this subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unobvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants therefore request that each of claims 1-6 be found allowable, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,


Raymond J. Ho
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 41,838

Customer No.: 004372
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

RJH:elz

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time
TECH/220335.1